

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 06650 051031Z

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ACTION SMI-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 ABF-01 OES-03 FS-01 SSO-00 /017 W

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O 051011Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4984

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAIRO 6650

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: THPY OSCI EG

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN/SFCP - DISBURSEMENT UNDER GRANT FR5-54002

"PREHISTORIC STUDIES OF THE SIWA OASIS REGION"

REF: STATE 155320

1. WE REGRET THAT WE WER NOT ADVISED EARLIER OF REFERENCE PROJECT IN SIWA OASIS REGION. THIS IS A HIGHLY SENSITIVE AREA SO FAR AS EGYPIANS ARE CONCERNED, ESPECIALLY IN CONTEXT OF CURRENT STRAINED EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN RELATIONS. EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO RECENTLY RECEIVED PERMISSION TO VISIT SIWA WERE CLOSELY WATCHED. REPORTS WERE SENT BACK TO CAIRO AUTHORITIES ABOUT QUESTIONS THEY WERE ASKING. EGYPTIANS SEEM TO SUSPECT THAT WE HAVE SOME SPECIAL INTEREST IN SIWA AND, WHILE WE THINK WE SUBSEQUENTLY SATISFIED THEM THAT TRIP WAS PURELY TOURISTIC, THEY REMAIN WATCHFUL.
2. ALL WE KNOW ABOUT PROJECT IS TITLE AS GIVEN IN REFTEL. WE NEED MORE INFORMATION ON SCOPE OF PROJECT, SOURCE OF DR. HASSAN'S REPORTED GOE PERMIT FOR THIS WORK AND HIS PREVIOUS TALKS WITH EGYPTIANS ABOUT PROJECT.
3. WE DO NOT WISH APPROACH MFA ABOUT THIS SUBJECT UNTIL WE HAVE NEEDED INFORMATION IN DETAIL. WORK IN SIWA AREA IS TOO SENSITIVE TO HANDLE AS ROUTINE MATTER. HASSAN SHOULD NOT PROCEED TO EGYPT UNTIL SIWA PROJECT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH MFA AND HAS SUCH MFA AND MIN/INTERIOR APPROVAL. OTHERWISE HE WILL BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WASTING HIS TIME AND COULD CAUSE SOME EMBARRASSMENT.

EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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To: STATE
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